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Ex-CIA Agent Spotted by Pell

Journal-Bulletin Washington Bureau

Washington — The presence of a former Central Intelligence Agency operative on the staff of Action, the federal agency that includes the Peace Corps, was discovered by Sen. Claiborne Pell, then kept out of the public record because it was a short-term mistake.

In early April, Pell submitted six written questions to Action Director Joseph Blatchford at a Senate foreign relations committee hearing on the agency's authorization for the coming fiscal year. Two of the questions involve Pell's belief that a CIA agent had been used in a policy-making position in the Peace Corps.

The use of such agents in the Peace Corps is contrary to a long-standing policy. Host countries could not be expected to welcome Peace Corps volunteers if there was any

taint of intelligence gathering operations about them.

A few weeks ago, Blatchford replied to the Pell question, saying that a former agent had been briefly involved in administrative affairs of the Action agency when it was formed through the merger of the Peace Corps and Vista (Volunteers in Service to America). The agent had originally worked for Vista. He has since been detailed to the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The original Blatchford reply carried a handwritten notation that Pell's staff had agreed not to make the disclosures public. Pell's staff rejected the copy with the handwritten notation and insisted on a clean copy. A Pell spokesman said the purpose was to let Pell make the decision on disclosure himself.

Pell then decided that the agent had been only mar-



Joseph Blatchford

ginally involved in the Peace Corps, and then only for a few weeks. For that reason, he agreed to withhold the information on the agent from the record of the hearing.

According to Action, the agent was Erie H. Biddle Jr., who served with the CIA in Europe and Washington during the 1950s.

Ex-CIA Agent's Status In Action Is at Issue

United Press International

The revelation that an ex-CIA agent is on the payroll of Action, the government agency which includes the Peace Corps, was deleted from a Senate Foreign Relations Committee report after a personal plea by Action Director Joseph H. Blatchford, it was learned today.

The former agent, Eric H. Biddle Jr., since has been detailed away from Action because such employment would be contrary to the agency's stated policies.

Biddle, who served with the CIA in Greece, Germany, and Washington during the 1950s, currently works in the Office of Economic Opportunity. He continues to be paid through Action.

Blatchford's sensitivity to the CIA issue came to light following questioning by Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., during an April 7 Foreign Relations Committee hearing on fiscal 1973 authorizations for the Peace Corps.

Written Answers

Pell, though not present, submitted six questions for Blatchford to answer. Included was the question: "Are there any former employees of the CIA or other intelligence agencies now on the payroll of Action, regardless of whether they are now performing duties for Action?"

A week later Blatchford sent written answers to all six questions to Pell, with a handwritten postscript at the bottom of the cover letter.

"I have an understanding with your staff that these questions and answers are for your personal use and will not be put into the record. We appreciate your sensitivity to this issue."

Pell's staff, however, rejected the postscript and demand-

ed a new cover letter without the agreement. This was done.

Nevertheless, when Pell turned over the questions and answers to the committee for publication in the report of the hearing, the two questions involving Biddle's employment were deleted.

Questions Deleted

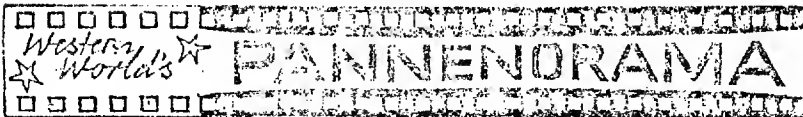
Thomas Hughes, Pell's press secretary, said yesterday the senator decided to eliminate the material from the public record because it "could very well be very damaging and embarrassing to the Peace Corps."

Hughes and William Young, the senator's administrative assistant, said Biddle had some control over Peace Corps functions during the brief period he actually was working in Action, but an Action spokesman denied it.

Paul Costello, an Action press official, said Biddle was detailed out of Action two weeks after the merger of several agencies in July.

14 May 1972

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Wenig Anklang

Sie hatten keinen Computer nötig, um herauszufinden, daß man mit zwölf Jüngern heutzutage keine Religion mehr verbreiten kann, weswegen sie 30 000 aufboten und im Jahre 1960 ihren Präsidenten John F. Kennedy zu ihnen sagen ließen: „Nun gehet hin in alle Welt und lehret alle Völker, so sie es sich gefallen lassen, den American Way of Life!“ Und er taufte die 30 000 auf den Namen „Peace Corps“ („Friedenskorps“), was nach amerikanischer Ansicht sowohl den Christen wie den Heiden unverdächtig erscheinen mußte, und entließ das Friedensheer in alle Windrichtungen, auf daß in den Hirnen der Unwissenden eine starke Liebe zu Amerika und ein heftiger Widerwille gegen amerikanische Teufel erblühe.

In den Peace-Corps-Empfängerländern erregten die Peace Corporals so gleich beträchtliches Aufsehen, weil man dort nie zuvor Leute kennengelernt hatte, die soviel reden konnten, ohne dabei den Wunsch nach irgendeiner nützlichen Tätigkeit erkennen zu lassen. So taufen die Lateinamerikaner das US-„Cuerpa de Paz“ („Friedenskorps“) in „Cuerpa de Paseo“ („Spaziergängerkorps“) um und entdeckten auch bald, daß der Sinn der Jünger nicht so sehr nach unentgeltlichem Frieden, sondern nach Informationen gegen bar bei der CIA-Kasse stand.

Während man in den USA den Corps-Nachschub noch in 120 verschiedenen Londessprachen und Dialekten unterrichtet, flogen die ersten Friedenskundler bereits wieder heimwärts. In Bolivien war man so vornehm, ihre „Anwesenheit für nicht mehr notwendig zu erachten“, während man in Chile die mehr offenerzige Art des Hinowurfs bevorzugte. Die aus Persien der Heimat Zurechtbenden hatten sogar den Eindruck, hinausgeschossen worden zu sein, war doch in der Peace-Corps-Zentrale eine Bombe losgegangen.

Schlimmer noch berührte den Peace-Corps-Chef Blotchford die Nachricht, daß selbst eine so befreundete Nation

wie Pakistan die Jünger nicht länger leiden machte, weil „die amerikanischen Freiwilligen nichts anderes verkaufen können als den Lebensstil eines Amerikaners der Mittelklasse“. Und das war für die Regierung genauso viel zuwenig wie fürs Volk zuviel.

So durfte denn Blotchford die Stunde erwarten, da er seine 30 000 Jünger wieder beisammen hoben würde, als ihm größtenteils Nachricht widerfuhr: Vor der US-Zentrale demonstrierten ehemalige Peace-Corps-Mitglieder mit roten Fahnen und Losungen wie „Befreiung — nicht Befriedung“ und „Wir sind dem USA-Imperialismus begeben!“

Die Peace-Corps-Erfinder hatten in der Eile der Aufstellung ihrer Streitmacht völlig übersehen, daß ihre Friedenssoldaten draußen in der großen, weiten, freien Welt dem Duft der mehr bekannten Art amerikanischer Friedensstiftung begegnen könnten — dem Krieg nämlich —, und daß viele einen gewissen Widerspruch zwischen ihm und ihrer deklarierten Friedensmission entdecken würden.

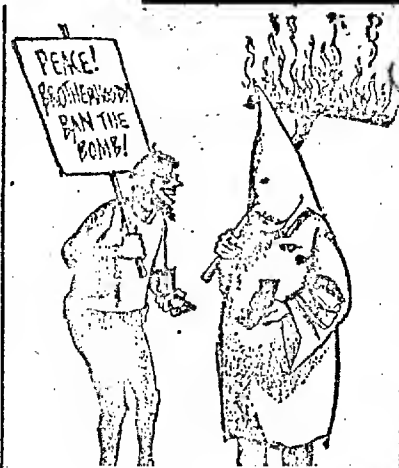
Auf seine Verlustliste konnte Blotchford ferner einige tausend Friedenskundler setzen, die ihre Aufgabe ernst genommen hatten und tatsächlich vom Frieden kündeten — bloß leider nicht den speziell amerikanischen. Blotch-



An der richtigen Adresse: „Chef, hier ist ein Mann, der einen neuen Invasionsmarsch komponiert hat.“

Aus „New York Herald Tribune“

„To the right address: „Boss, here is a man who has composed a new invasion march.“



Leave me alone. I'm from the CIA too!

Peace-Corps-Mitglied mit der Losung „Frieden, Brüderlichkeit, Weg mit der A-Bombe“ zum Ku-Klux-Klan-Mann: „Laß mich, ich bin doch auch von der CIA!“

Aus „Christian Science Monitor“, USA

ford zählte seinen traurigen Rest zusammen, und siehe, da waren es nur noch 19 000.

Chef Blotchford hätte die Sache gern geheim gehalten, aber da die CIA-Zentrale die gleichen Verluste abzubuchen hatte wie er, wurde gar bald ruchbar, daß das Peace Corps mal wieder so ein rechter Valtreffler ins Tor zur amerikanischen Lebensweise geworden war. So kürzte der Kongreß die Mittel radikal um 10 Millionen Dollar. Blotchford in der Preisgestaltung militanter Unternehmen erfahren, rechnete der Presse sogleich vor, daß „unser Budget noch nicht einmal halb so hoch ist wie der Preis für ein U-Boot“.

Lediglich der Vorsitzende des Haushaltsausschusses für Auslandshilfe, Otto Passman, wird mit dem Peace Corps endlich glücklich. Hatte er doch vor Jahren bereits gebetet: „Sollte ich vor meinem Tod noch einen letzten Wunsch äußern dürfen, so wäre es die Auflösung des Peace Corps.“ Friede seiner und des Peace Corps Asche,

continued

NOT WELL RECEIVED

Article; East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG 14 May 72 p 97

They did not need a computer to tell that a religion cannot be spread any more with 12 disciples, so they came up with 30,000 and in 1960 had President Kennedy say to them: "Go into the world and teach all nations to accept the American way of life." And he ~~christened~~ christened the 30,000 the Peace Corps, which the Americans felt would not cause suspicion either among the Christians or the heathens, and sent ~~them~~ this Peace Corps in all directions so that in the minds of the ignorant a strong love for America and a strong aversion to American devils might blossom forth.

In the Peace Corps host countries the peace corporals created considerable sensation because the people there had never met people who could talk so much without revealing a desire for any useful activity. So the Latin Americans ~~christened~~ rechristened the U.S. Cuerpo de Paz (Peace Corps) Cuerpo de Paseo (Walking Corps) and soon discovered that the purpose of the disciples was directed not so much toward gratuitous peace as toward gathering information for CIA cash.

While in the U.S.A. the Corps' reinforcements were instructed in 180 different languages and dialects, the first heralds of peace were flying back home. In Bolivia they were ~~xx~~ polite enough "to consider their presence no longer necessary," while ^{in Chile} they preferred the more frank expulsion. Those hurrying back home from Persia even had the impression that they had been fired away, for a bomb had exploded in the Peace Corps center.

Even worse for Peace Corps chief Blatchford was the news that a nation as friendly as Pakistan could not stand the disciples any longer because "the American volunteers can sell nothing but the life style of the American middle class." And that was just as insufficient for the government as it was too much for the people.

as
Then/Blatchford awaited the hour when he would ~~again~~ have his 30,000/^{disciples}together again, horrible news came to his attention: In ~~for~~ front of the U.S. center former Peace Corps members were demonstrating with red flags and slogans like ~~"Liberation - not liberation pacification"~~ and "We have ~~not~~ encountered U.S. imperialism."

The Peace Corps inventors, in the rush of establishing their forces, had completely ignored the fact that in the big, wide, free world the soldiers of peace would encounter the scent of the better known kind of American peacemaking -- namely war -- and that many would discover a certain contradiction between this and their ~~professed~~ professed peace mission.

On his list of the missing Blatchford could also place a few thousand heralds of peace who had taken their task seriously and told the ~~not~~ story of peace -- but unfortunately not the especially American one. Blatchford counted up his sad remainder, and, behold, there were only 19,000.

Chief ^{B.}Blatchford would gladly have kept the affair a secret, but since CIA headquarters had ^{recorded} the same number of losses, it soon became known that the Peace Corps had become a strike against the American way of life. So the Congress cut its funds radically by

10,000,000 dollars. Blatchford, experienced in pricing militant undertakings, calculated for the press that "our budget is not half the price of a submarine."

Solely the chairman of the budget committee for foreign aid, Otto Passman, will finally be pleased with the Peace Corps. Years ago he had prayed: "Should I be permitted to express one last ~~xx~~ wish before my death, it would be the dissolution of the ~~xxx~~ Peace Corps." May his and the Peace Corps' ashes rest in peace.